

O. GENE DISHNER
DIRECTOR



DIVISIONS
ENERGY
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MINED LAND RECLAMATION
MINERAL MINING
MINERAL RESOURCES
MINES
ADMINISTRATION

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy

Ninth Street Office Building / 8th Floor

202 North Ninth Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219-3402

(804) 692-3200 FAX (804) 692-3237

www.dmme.virginia.gov

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Contact: Mike Abbott (276) 523-8146

E-mail: mike.abbott@dmme.virginia.gov

53 MILLION YEAR OLD FOSSILS DESCRIBED IN NEW STATE PUBLICATION

Charlottesville, VA – Fossils of 118 species of sharks, rays, bony fish, reptiles, and bird and nine plant species are described and illustrated in a publication recently released by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy's Division of Mineral Resources. The title of the publication, edited by Dr. Robert Weems and Mr. Gary Grimsely, is "Early Eocene vertebrates and plants from the Fisher/Sullivan site (Nanjemoy Formation) Stafford County, Virginia."

Vertebrate animal and plant fossils were collected from a geologic unit approximately 53 million years old. Located in eastern Stafford County, the Eocene-age deposit contains several species that were previously unknown. The bird specimens are the first of Eocene age collected from eastern North America.

The publication contains 24 pages of photographs, 65 figures, and several maps and tables. These illustrations are useful to both the professional paleontologist and the amateur collector in the study and identification of ancient life.

The collection and assembly for publication of much of the fossil material was accomplished by members of the mostly amateur Maryland Geological Society with the cooperation of several landowners.

Copies of “Early Eocene vertebrates and plants from the Fisher/Sullivan site (Nanjemoy Formation) Stafford County, Virginia.” (Publication 152) are available from the Division of Mineral Resources, P. O. Box 3667, Charlottesville, VA 22903 for \$13.00 each plus 4.5% sales tax on orders shipped to a Virginia address.

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